

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that acknowledgments of the receipt and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) filed on December 5, 2003 and July 12, 2004 have not been received. As an indication of consideration of the references cited in the IDSs, Applicants respectfully request initialed copies of both Form PTO-1449s that accompanied the IDSs.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for allegedly not showing the features of Claim 7. In response, Applicants have cancelled Claim 7, without prejudice, thereby rendering this objection moot.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have cancelled Claim 7, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,613,751 to Parker et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Parker et al. reference fails to disclose all of the features of the present invention. More specifically, the Parker et al. reference fails to disclose a lighting unit that includes, *inter alia*, a “truncated pyramid arranged between the light guide plate and the light source, said truncated pyramid having a base, a top smaller than the base, and a slope extending between said base and said top, said light source being

arranged in close contact with said base of the truncated pyramid, so that light is propagated from a light emitting part of the light source to the light guide plate without passing through any air layer,” as defined in independent Claim 1.

In the present invention, as shown in Figure A of the attached Appendix, which is one example of the invention defined in Claim 1, the light emitting surface of the light source 14 is placed in close contact with the light incident surface (top 16b) of the light guide plate 12. This point is different from the configuration of Figure 7 of the Parker et al. reference. In Figure 7 of the Parker et al. reference, light sources 3 are not in close contact with the top of a truncated pyramid, but are instead each located within a five-sided polygon transition area 43.

In the invention of attached Figure A, since the light source 14 is in close contact with top 16b of light incident surface 16, it is possible to carry light from light source 14 into the light guide plate 12 efficiently. As shown by light rays B and C in Figure B of the attached Appendix, if the light source and the surface of the light guide plate are not in close contact, part of the light is reflected due to the interface reflection on the surface of the light guide plate, resulting in loss of light.

In addition to the close contact feature, the taper of the truncated pyramid is also an important feature of the present invention of Claim 1. For example, Figure C of the attached Appendix shows an example of a case where the light guide plate does not have a taper part. Although light D is available for use, light rays such a ray E are lost from the light guide plate, if no other measures are adopted.

In contrast, as shown in Figure A, which includes a taper part 16c, light is reflected on this taper part of the truncated pyramid 16, and thus the light path is changed to be directed towards the light guide plate 12. Therefore, efficient use of the light is realized.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, withdrawal of this § 102(b) rejection of Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-10 under Parker et al. is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants have also added new dependent Claim 49, which depends from independent Claim 1. New Claim 49 recites that “said top [of the truncated pyramid] is an outermost peripheral surface.” This feature is not shown in Figure 7 of the Parker et al. reference. Even assuming *arguendo* that the dashed line surrounding mixing area 43 defines a truncated pyramid, the outer dashed line is not an “outermost peripheral surface” but is instead an internal area. Accordingly, for this reason also, new Claim 49 should be allowed.

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Parker et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,164,789 to Unger et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 4, 6, 7, and 14 all depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of dependent Claims 4, 6, 7, and 14 under Parker et al. and Unger et al. be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because the Unger et al. reference does not remedy the deficiencies noted above, nor was it relied upon as such.

Claims 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Parker et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,390,276 to Tai et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the features of dependent Claim 11 and independent Claim 13. More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Parker et al. or Tai et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a lighting unit that includes, *inter alia*, a light absorbing member that is located near the truncated pyramid and that “at least partially surrounds a portion of the truncated pyramid,” as defined in amended Claims 11 and 13.

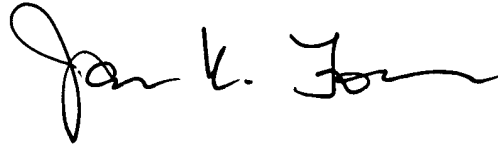
One example of an embodiment of the present invention is shown in Applicants’ Figures 26 and 27 and includes light absorbing member 28. As can be seen in these figures, light absorbing member 28 “at least partially surrounds a portion of the truncated pyramid [16].” In contrast, coating 72 of Figure 2A of the Tai et al. reference, which the Examiner equated with the claimed light absorbing member, does not surround a portion of a truncated pyramid. In fact, the Tai et al. device of Figures 1-2B lacks a truncated pyramid-shaped member. Further, even assuming *arguendo* that fixture 66 of Figure 1 of Tai et al. could be considered as the claimed “truncated pyramid,” the feature at issue would still not be satisfied because coating 72 of Tai et al. does not “at least partially surround a portion” of fixture 66. In fact, as better shown in Figure 2A of Tai et al., coating 72 does not reach fixture 66. Accordingly, as all of the features of Claims 11 and 13 are not disclosed or

suggested in the cited references, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of Claims 11 and 13 and associated dependent Claim 14.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James K. Folker", written in a cursive style.

By

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